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United Nations Office for Partnerships

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for Partnerships (A/62/220). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) was created in 2005 by the Secretary-General and was placed under the management and administration of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP). Subsequently the United Nations Office for Partnerships evolved, managing UNFIP and UNDEF and providing partnership advisory services to the United Nations system and State and non-State actors (see A/62/220, paras. 1, 2 and 5). Information on projects funded through UNFIP and UNDEF by programme area, as at 31 December 2006, is shown as annexes I and II to the report of the Secretary-General. Upon enquiry, the Committee received updated information from UNFIP on the status of cash transfers and project implementation, which is attached to the present report (see annexes I and II below).

3. The Advisory Committee notes that from 1998, when it was launched, to 2006, the United Nations Foundation made allocations to UNFIP in a total amount of $994.4 million for 400 projects implemented by 39 United Nations agencies in 123 countries, in such areas as children's health, women and population, the environment, and peace, security and human rights; starting in 2000, projects were implemented within the overall framework of the Millennium Development Goals. Of the total allocations referred to above, $561 million was contributed by other donors. An additional $335 million was generated from implementing agencies (see A/62/220, para. 7). **In this connection, the Committee notes with appreciation that in addition to the commitment of $1 billion by Robert E. (Ted) Turner, the United Nations Foundation has been working on a second phase that could yield another $1 billion from other partners to support United Nations causes** (see A/62/220, para. 98).

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4. UNDEF became fully operational in 2006 and has now been included, for the first time, in the report of the United Nations Office for Partnership. In 2006, a total of $36 million was approved for 125 projects in some 80 countries, focusing on civil and political rights, voters' education, political-party capacity development and strengthening the participation of women in political processes (see A/62/220, para. 4). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that of the 125 approved projects, two were cancelled. The Committee notes that UNDEF has introduced an online projects application system that facilitates access for civil society organizations (see A/62/220, para. 42).

5. The United Nations Office for Partnerships seeks to serve as a gateway between the United Nations system and the private sector, foundations and civil society. The partnership-building activities undertaken by the Office, in line with the mandate of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, are aimed at educating the public about the work of the Organization and engaging new partners for the United Nations. The Office received almost 500 enquiries from prospective partners in 2006 (see A/62/220, paras. 5 and 54-58).

6. The Advisory Committee recalls that in its report A/57/7/Add.6, paragraphs 6 and 7, it commented on project management, monitoring and evaluation by UNFIP. The Committee observed that the monitoring and evaluation process for projects appeared to be onerous and suggested that UNFIP focus more on measuring the impact and objectives of the projects, and that it provide evidence of progress in its next report. In this regard, the Advisory Committee takes note of the efforts made by UNFIP to improve management and streamline procedures, including the new programme guidelines promulgated in March 2005 (see A/61/189, paras. 68-69), the introduction of results-based budgeting and performance reports since 2003 (see A/59/170, para. 61), the issuance of the Handbook on Budget and Finance in October 2002 (see A/58/173, para. 67) and follow-up to the observations of the Board of Auditors (see A/60/327, para. 55). **In this connection, the Committee welcomes the inclusion of a section on lessons learned in the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/220, paras. 88-97), and notes in particular the emphasis placed on simplifying the administration and management of grants and ensuring full accountability.**

7. The Advisory Committee also notes that UNDEF is in the process of developing its own monitoring and evaluation strategy, drawing on experience of UNFIP and UNDP, and that UNDEF has reserved 10 per cent of each grant for evaluation (see A/62/220, para. 44). UNDEF also intends to put in place streamlined procedures to facilitate thorough assessments of projects at the national level (see A/62/220, para. 92). **The Committee looks forward to progress in this respect by UNDEF to be reflected in the next report.**

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

Annex I

United Nations Foundation and United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: status of cash transfers, by tranche, for the period from May 1998 to 21 September 2007

(United States dollars)

	Number of projects	*Grant allocations approved by UNF, inclusive of programme support costs*	*UNFIP requests to UNF*	*Deposits to UNFIP*	*Remittances to implementing partners*
Tranche 1/May 1998	21	20 245 130	20 915 000	20 915 000	20 915 000
Tranche 2/September 1998	17	31 672 625	31 865 370	31 763 425	31 689 400
Tranche 3/January 1999	25	32 169 469	31 888 305	31 906 919	31 775 644
Tranche 4/May 1999	13	93 179 477	89 884 008	90 891 287	90 211 743
Tranche 5/November 1999	34	56 783 125	56 772 757	56 512 236	58 381 961
Tranche 6/March 2000	10	15 930 077	15 599 748	15 599 748	15 599 748
Tranche 7/July 2000	28	41 283 696	41 187 590	41 187 038	43 672 037
Tranche 8/November 2000	13	16 598 687	16 022 597	16 022 597	16 570 957
Tranche 9/March 2001	36	67 359 508	64 554 144	62 205 313	63 480 719
Tranche 10/November 2001	17	34 087 955	31 744 620	31 483 914	32 313 897
Tranche 11/July 2002	17	26 145 000	17 315 721	16 983 267	17 148 793
Tranche 12/December 2002	3	1 920 000	1 820 000	1 820 000	1 820 000
Tranche 13/July 2003	15	15 162 000	13 461 174	13 063 726	13 089 976
Tranche 14/November 2003	14	32 748 673	30 107 877	29 994 738	29 976 900
Tranche 15/June 2004	9	11 383 612	5 431 364	4 612 754	4 612 754
Tranche 16/November 2004	10	43 855 000	38 122 853	37 476 803	37 476 803
Tranche 17/July 2005	8	6 180 000	1 600 542	1 534 292	1 534 292
Tranche 18/November 2005	5	41 869 507	41 009 788	36 540 803	36 640 803
Tranche 19/July 2006	1	525 000	525 000	525 000	525 000
Tranche 20/October 2006	2	176 770 000	139 209 690	139 209 670	139 209 670
Tranche 21/April 2007	3	1 450 000	200 000		
Intersessional/1999-2007	122	267 711 347	217 451 610	210 082 092	210 575 752
Total	**423**	**1 035 029 888**	**906 689 758**	**890 330 621**	**897 221 849**

Annex II

United Nations Foundation and United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: Summary status of project implementation, by tranche, for the period from May 1998 to 21 September 2007, based on expenditure information received by 31 August 2007

(United States dollars)

				1998-2007		
Funding round/UNF Board meeting date	*Number of projects*	*Grant allocations approved by UNF*	*Projects approved by UNF/UNFIP*	*Funding approved by UNFIP/UNF*	*Expenditure reported by implementing partners*	*Rate of implementation (percentage)*
Tranche 1/May 1998	21	19 232 874	19 232 874	19 869 250	18 835 378	98
Tranche 2/September 1998	17	30 088 994	30 088 994	30 104 930	29 618 843	98
Tranche 3/January 1999	25	30 560 996	30 560 996	30 186 862	29 876 676	98
Tranche 4/May 1999	13	88 520 503	88 520 503	85 701 156	85 480 255	97
Tranche 5/November 1999	34	53 943 969	53 943 969	55 462 863	52 949 063	98
Tranche 6/March 2000	10	15 133 573	15 133 573	14 819 760	14 108 241	93
Tranche 7/July 2000	28	39 219 511	39 219 511	41 488 435	37 391 249	95
Tranche 8/November 2000	13	15 768 753	15 768 753	15 742 409	14 928 496	95
Tranche 9/March 2001	36	63 991 533	63 991 533	60 306 683	60 480 389	95
Tranche 10/November 2001	17	32 383 557	32 383 557	30 698 203	29 366 150	91
Tranche 11/July 2002	17	24 837 750	23 650 250	16 291 353	13 139 510	53
Tranche 12/December 2002	3	1 824 000	1 729 000	1 729 000	1 871 444	103
Tranche 13/July 2003	15	14 403 900	14 403 900	12 435 477	10 720 176	74
Tranche 14/November 2003	14	31 111 239	31 111 239	28 478 055	26 008 177	84
Tranche 15/June 2004	9	10 814 431	10 814 431	4 382 116	3 557 532	33
Tranche 16/November 2004	10	41 662 250	40 237 250	35 602 963	34 004 507	82
Tranche 17/July 2005	8	5 871 000	3 410 500	1 457 577	1 184 273	20
Tranche 18/November 2005	5	39 776 032	39 776 032	34 808 763	33 113 763	83
Tranche 19/July 2006	1	498 750	498 750	498 750	118 750	24
Tranche 20/October 2006	2	167 931 500	167 931 500	132 249 187	17 011 374	10
Tranche 21/April 2007	3	1 377 500	427 500			—
Intersessional/1999-2007	122	254 325 780	252 423 852	200 046 964	170 302 273	67
Total	**423**	**983 278 393**	**975 258 466**	**852 360 756**	**684 066 521**	**70**
Administrative support costs		51 751 494	51 329 393	44 861 092	36 003 501	
Grand total	**423**	**1 035 029 888**	**1 026 587 859**	**897 221 849**	**720 070 022**	